

Name: _____ Date: _____

Blog Exemplar WebQuest

Visit at least three of the blogs listed below, choosing ones that match your personal interests. As you surf through the content, notice the style of the writing, the format of the posts, and the special features and details that attract your attention.

Environmental Blogs

Los Angeles Times "Greenspace": <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/>

The Times (London) "Green Central": <http://timesonline.typepad.com/environment/>

Got To Be Green: <http://got2begreen.com>

Travel Blogs

Everything, Everywhere: <http://everything-everywhere.com>

Food Blogs

Cooking with Amy: <http://cookingwithamy.blogspot.com/>

Cupcakes take the Cake: <http://cupcakestakethecake.blogspot.com/>

Sports Blogs

Reuters Soccer Blog: <http://blogs.reuters.com/soccer/>

Political Blog

CNN Political Ticker: <http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/>

Music Blog

Said the Gramophone: <http://saidthegramophone.com>

Now, go back to your favorite blog and answer the following questions.

1. Which blog is your favorite? _____

2. What are the posts about and how did the author(s) format them?

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Blog Exemplar WebQuest (continued)

3. What kinds of features are on the side bar?

4. How does this blog make use of graphic design?

5. Are there links included on the blog? How do the links relate to the content?

6. Are there photos or other kinds of graphics on the blog? How do they relate to the content?

7. List at least three features you noticed on blogs during this WebQuest that you would like to have on a blog of your own design.

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Blog Creation Steps

To set up a blog of your own

1. Go to <https://www.blogger.com/start2> and click the orange “Create a Blog” button.
2. Fill out the registration information, click that you accept the terms of service, then click “continue.”
3. Fill in the information on the next screen, officially opening a Google account, then click “continue.”
4. Give your blog a name (remember—it should suit your chosen character!) and choose a unique URL address. Check the availability on the URL you have chosen, and once you find an available one, click “continue.”
5. Now comes the fun part: scroll through the available templates and select one you think would appeal to your character. Click “continue.”
6. Congratulations! You should see the “Your blog has been created” screen. Click “start blogging now.”

To make a post (the most recent posts will always appear at the top of your blog)

1. Sign in to your blog at <https://www.blogger.com/start2> with the e-mail and password you gave during set-up.
2. Now you will see your dashboard page, with many options for what to do. Click the blue bubble that reads “New Post.”
3. Type in a title for your post—this will show up above the text in your blog—then enter whatever text you wish in the box. You may also add images, videos, or links (see below). The menu across the top will allow you to alter the font, size, and color of your text, should you wish to do so. Keep your graphic design interesting, but remember that the text of your posts is more important than changing each letter into a rainbow of color. Try to make design decisions you believe your character would make.
4. Click “Publish Post.” You will now be able to choose to “View Blog,” “Edit Post,” or “Create a New Post.” Select an option.

To add an image to a post

1. Save an image to your desktop. If it is not an image you took, be sure to write down the source information and include that in a Sources Cited section on your blog.

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Blog Creation Steps (continued)

2. On the “New Post” page run your mouse across the menu of option icons just above the text box. Click on the little blue box with the mountain in it that reads “Add Image” when your mouse crosses it.
3. In the new box, click “Browse” and then choose the picture file from your desktop. Choose to place image in the left, center, or right of the screen. Choose to make image small, medium, or large. You may format and add up to five images at a time.
4. Click “I accept the terms of service” and then “Upload Image.” Your images should soon appear in your post.

To add a video to a post

1. Save a video file to your desktop. If it is not a video you took, be sure to write down the source information and include that in a Sources Cited section on your blog.
2. On the “New Post” page run your mouse across the menu of option icons just above the text box. Click on the little film strip that reads “Add Video” when your mouse crosses it. Choose the file from your desktop, give the video a title, accept the terms of service, and then click “Upload Video.”

To add a link to a post

1. Copy the desired URL from your web browser.
2. Copy the link into your post, then highlight it again with the mouse.
3. Run your mouse across the menu of option icons just above the text box. Click on the one with a green circle that reads “Add Link” when your mouse crosses it. Paste or retype your link into the box and click OK.
4. Your text should change color and become a link.

To edit or delete a post

1. From your main blog page (you can always access this page by choosing “View Blog”), choose “New Post.” On the new post page, just above the main box, choose the link “Edit Posts.”
2. This will take you to a page showing all past posts. You may click the box for any post and then choose “Edit” on the far left. This will take you back into the page as if you are still

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Blog Creation Steps (continued)

working on the post for the first time. You can make any changes you wish and then click “Publish Post.” The new post will replace the old one.

3. If you prefer to erase the post altogether, simply click “Delete” on the far right of the “Edit” page for the chosen post.

To add a group of links, text, survey, or image to the sidebar

1. From your main blog page (you can always access this page by choosing “View Blog”), choose “Customize” in the upper right corner.
2. From the “Customize” page, you can add any number of page elements. On the upper right, choose “Add a Gadget.”
3. Scroll through your gadget options, selecting the one you wish from: “Poll,” “Link List,” “Picture,” or “Text.” You can also try adding other gadgets—experiment!
4. Follow the instructions for the gadget you choose and then click “Save” to put the gadget into your sidebar. This will return you to the layout page.
5. Back on the layout page, you can click “Preview” to see what your new gadget looks like, or you can click “Save” to make it part of your blog.
6. You can always delete gadgets from the layout page, simply by clicking “Edit” in the gadget’s box, and then choosing “Remove.”
7. You may also rearrange your page elements in this page by clicking and dragging any element to a new location.

To add a footer image or quotation

1. From your main blog page (you can always access this page by choosing “View Blog”), choose “Customize” in the upper right corner.
2. From the “Customize” page, you can add any number of page elements. On the bottom of the page choose “Add a Gadget.” You may now add a picture or text across the bottom just like you did in the sidebar in the previous menu.

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Character Blog Requirements

The goal of your blog is to express the thoughts, feelings, and history of your chosen character in a variety of ways. As you design your blog, you should always consider whether you are representing your character accurately

Your character: _____

Everyone's blog **MUST** have **ALL** of the following:

- At least four posts written from the perspective of your character from various points in the **superstars career**. These posts should be at least 200 words each. Keep in mind that blog posts will appear from most recent to oldest,
- At least one post must have a related image within it. If you use an image from the Internet, be sure to cite it somewhere on your blog.
- A sidebar that includes at least three links grouped around a theme of interest to your character
- A header with a title that matches your character and blog content, with a quotation related to your character
- A photo of your character (as you imagine him or her) on the sidebar with a brief description of your character (role in life, relationships, goals, location, etc.)

Everyone's blog **MUST** have **ONE** of the following:

- A link to a video or an embedded video
- A survey for viewers
- An additional set of links grouped around another theme
- Photo slideshow
- Footer graphic and quotation

If you use outside sources of any kind, use MLA style to site the source somewhere on your blog: on the sidebar, in a post, or at the bottom in a footer.

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Character Blog: Assessment Rubric

	1 – 4	5 – 7	8 – 10
Writing Content:	<p>The posts accurately and interestingly represent the chosen character's thoughts and feelings at four unique points in career.</p> <p>Posts are each a minimum of 200 words, and probably go beyond that requirement.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>The posts reflect the characters to some degree, though it is unclear how some of them relate to the text. Some of the content seems irrelevant to the character. Posts may be too short.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>The author has paid little attention to the chosen character and written little to show their understanding of the text. Posts are too short, and possibly too few.</p> <p>Score ____</p>
Design:	<p>Elements on the page match each other and seem to be part of a clear overall plan to show something about the character. A wide range of elements is included in the blog.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>Elements on the page are somewhat haphazard. At least some of them seem to have been chosen to represent the character, but some do not match.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>There is little attention to design, and no particular thought to what the character might choose.</p> <p>Score ____</p>
Requirements:	<p>Not only are all the requirements met, the author has gone above and beyond what was asked. All sources are cited. Accurately in full MLA style.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>The requirements are mostly met, but no extra effort is represented on the blog. Sources are cited, though perhaps only partially.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>Only a few of the requirements have been met. Sources may not be cited at all.</p> <p>Score ____</p>
Mechanics:	<p>The content shows a variety of vocabulary and sentence structure. Editing has eliminated all typos and grammar is exemplary.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>Though there are some typos, most of the content is pretty clear. Sentence structure may not be varied. Grammar is occasionally confused.</p> <p>Score ____</p>	<p>The blog is filled with spelling and grammar mistakes; it is difficult to follow. Sentences are confusing and sentence structure may not be varied.</p> <p>Score ____</p>

Score: ____ / 40

Process Grade: ____ / 40

Peer Editing Questions

Spend some time viewing your partner's blog: reading the content, viewing the graphics, exploring the links, etc. Then answer the following questions to help your partner improve his/her blog.

1. What do you think is the strongest part of the blog? This could be a certain post, the writing style, the graphic design, the use of alternative media, the images, etc. What makes this element so strong?
2. Is there a part of the blog you find confusing? A part that doesn't seem to quite match the rest or the character for which it was designed? A link for which you don't understand the connection? Can you give some suggestions for how to improve that part?
3. After reading the blog, what would you like to know more about? Is there a post that leaves you with questions? Write down at least two questions to help your partner further develop this blog.
4. Did you notice any major typos or grammatical issues? Please note anything glaring in this space.
5. Did your partner fulfill all the requirements on the Character Blog Requirements handout? If not, which one or ones still need to be added?